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BOOK REVIEWS

The Evolution of the Civil Law. By Charles S. Lobingier, Shanghai, China. Published by the author. 1915. pp. 15.

A most welcome addition to American literature on Roman law is this learned work of Judge Lobingier. In his opening chapter this distinguished Federal judge and law teacher takes pains to emphasize the great *modern* value of Roman law and the *necessity* for its study in American law schools: not only does Judge Lobingier point out that Roman law is the mother of the Continental European and allied legal systems (*e. g.*, Spanish-American) as well as of Canon law, and that International law is closely related to the Roman, but also that "the Anglo-American law is profoundly indebted to the Roman."

After analyzing the present great study value of Roman law, Judge Lobingier holds—and *correctly*—that American law students need and should receive instruction in Roman law "following immediately upon undergraduate work and preceding any considerable advance into the technical field of modern law. The gulf between these two . . . is very wide, but Roman law supplies the bridge which renders passage comparatively easy. The bridge is of little value if it is not to be used until the passage is accomplished by some other method, however laborious and fatiguing. . . . Roman law should be the first subject in the technical curriculum." That Roman law will sooner or later become a prescribed study of the first year in American law schools is an inevitable consequence of the present revival of the study of the Civil law in the United States.

In Judge Lobingier's book there is a special feature which will be found most useful: every chapter is preceded by an analytical syllabus of topics, which is often supplemented by copious notes to Roman law sources and the Modern Codes. His syllabus on Roman Criminal law (p. 96) is most praiseworthy for its comprehensiveness. It is hoped that in a later edition the author will write a text to go with those chapters which now contain only a syllabus.

CHARLES P. SHERMAN.